

## Message Text

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ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-04 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 OIC-02 /092 W

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P R 311655Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8474

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

ROME FOR FAO DELEGATION

E.9 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WILL CONSIST OF VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE GUILLERMO CAMPBELL AND ELADIO CARMONA, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

2. A DECISION WAS TAKEN AT RECENT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE IN SAN JOSE THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

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3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CONFERENCE AND U.S. POSITION WITH

VICE MINISTER CAMPBELL, WHO IS PRESENTLY DISPOSED TO COOPERATE BUT STATES THAT THE COSTA RICAN POSITION WILL DIFFER IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THAT OF THE USG, NOTABLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOOD BANK.

4. CAMPBELL CONSIDERS RESOLUTION NO. 9 TO BE THE CENTRAL PART OF THE AGENDA. COSTA RICA FAVORS ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOOD BANK AS A PART OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. COSTA RICA WOULD WANT TO AVOID THE BUREAUCRATIC PROLIFERATION THAT WOULD RESULT FROM ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION TO HANDLE THE FOOD BANK, BUT IT DOES FAVOR THE FAO PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO OVERSEE AND CONTROL THE FOOD BANK. WITHOUT SUCH A COUNCIL, CAMPBELL FEARS, CONTROL OF DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD WOULD BE LINKED TOO CLOSELY TO DONORS AS HAS BEEN THE CASE UNDER THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

5. ACCORDING TO CAMPBELL, THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES VERY STRONGLY FAVOR A FOOD STOCKPILE AND HAVE DECIDED TO CREATE AND FINANCE ONE THEMSELVES IF THEY CANNOT GET GENERAL AGREEMENT AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. COSTA RICA OPPOSES DIVISION BASED ON IDEOLOGY AND WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE ARAB STATES IN CREATION OF A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION.

6. COSTA RICA WILL MAKE TWO PROPOSITIONS OF ITS OWN AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ONE WILL SEEK MEMBERSHIP FOR COSTA RICA IN THE COUNCIL OF THE FAO AND IN THE PROPOSED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. THE OTHER WILL CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICA, PREFERABLY IN MEXICO CITY.

7. AS FOR OPERATION OF A FOOD STOCKPILE, COSTA RICA BELIEVES THAT EACH COUNTRY SHOULD FIRST MEET ITS DOMESTIC DEMAND AND THEN EXPORTABLE SURPLUSES SHOULD GO FIRST TO OTHER COUNTRIES WITHIN THE REGION AND THEN TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE REGION. EACH COUNTRY SHOULD SET ASIDE A PERCENTAGE OF ITS NATIONAL DEMAND FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RESERVE. THE INTERNATIONAL RESERVE SHOULD BE MANAGED JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BY THE PROPOSED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORLD FOOD PROGRAM FOR THE REGION. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RESERVES SHOULD HAVE A FLEXIBLE PRICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND ADJUSTED RAPIDLY TO ECONOMIC CHANGES IN ORDER TO REINFORCE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS RESERVES. THE SYSTEM OF FOOD RESERVES SHOULD BE OPERATED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN STABLE PRICES IN THE WORLD FOOD ECONOMY.

8. COSTA RICA ALSO BELIEVES THAT WORLD ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE IBRD, IN COORDINATION WITH THE FAO, SHOULD AID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF RESERVES NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST BAD HARVESTS.

9. COSTA RICA WILL NOT TAKE A SEPARATE POSITION ON RESOLUTION V CONCERNING NUTRITION. INSTEAD, THERE WILL BE A CENTRAL AMERICAN POSITION TO BE PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MARKET (SIECA).  
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